Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

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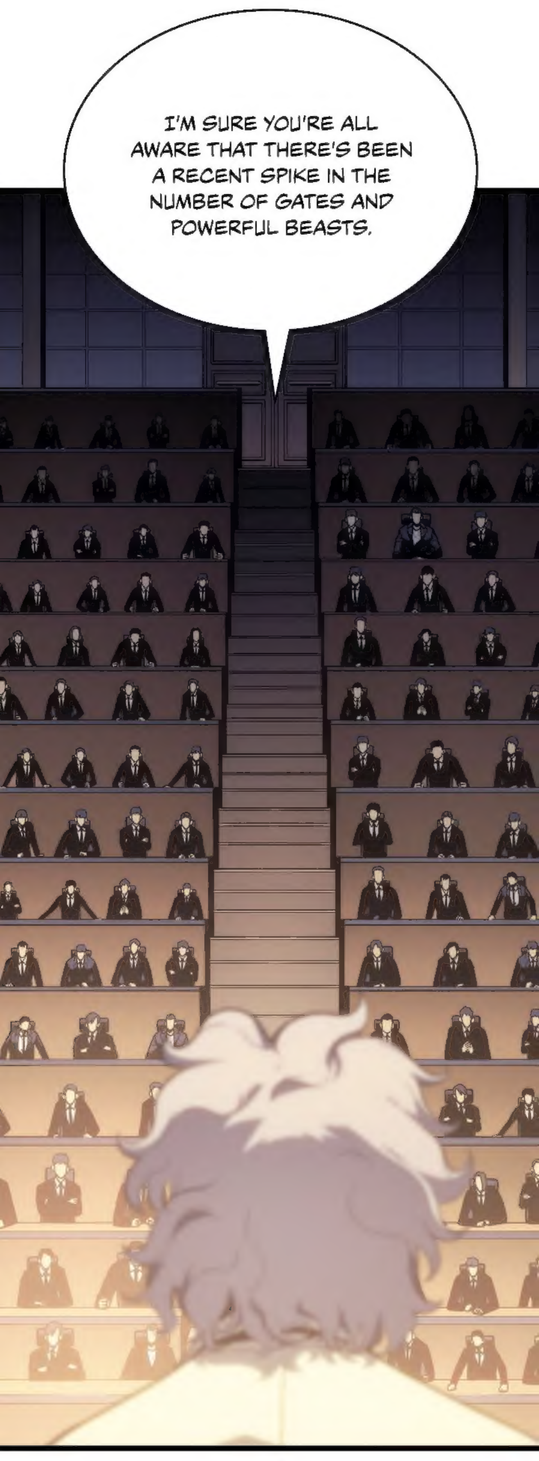
THEY SAY HE PLAYED A BIG PART IN THE TOKYO GATE AS WELL...
TO THINK HE KNOCKED OUT THOMAS, WHO'S BEEN RULING OVER THE OTHER HUNTERS LIKE A KING...
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, REALLY.

SLIDE

STEP
STEP

HELLO, EVERYONE.
I AM DR. BELZER.


I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL AWARE THAT THERE'S BEEN A RECENT SPIKE IN THE NUMBER OF GATES AND POWERFUL BEASTS.

BUT WHAT MANY OF YOU MAY NOT KNOW IS THAT WE'VE DETECTED SOME UNUSUAL ACTIVITY IN THE SKIES.

IT'S BEEN WIDELY REPORTED THAT THE CONCENTRATION OF MANA THAT HAS BEEN ABSORBED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE IS GROWING INCREASINGLY DENSE.

I'D LIKE TO REFER TO THIS PARTICULAR TYPE OF MANA BY A DIFFERENT NAME.

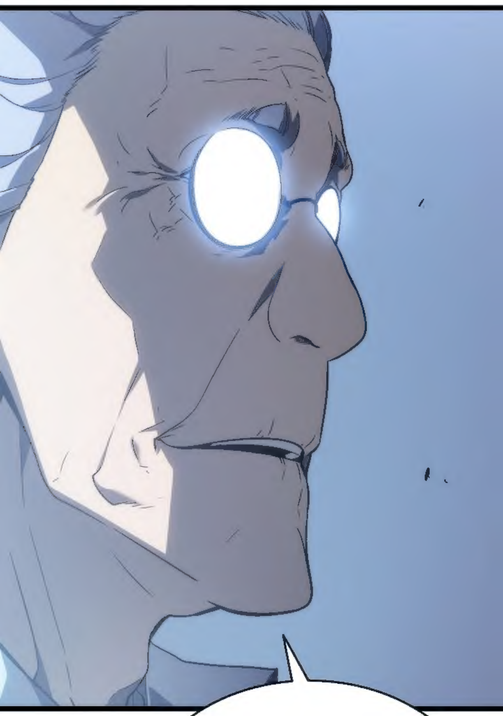
UNTIL A MORE SUITABLE TERM IS AVAILABLE, I PROPOSE CALLING IT THE ***"MAGISPHERE."***

DID YOU KNOW THAT THIS MAGISPHERE IS CURRENTLY FORMING CLUSTERS IN THE SKIES ABOVE SOME COUNTRIES?
THIS PHENOMENON CAN BE OBSERVED IN A TOTAL OF NINE AREAS...
...AND THIS RIGHT HERE IS WHERE THE MAGISPHERE IS MOST CONCENTRATED.
BEEP

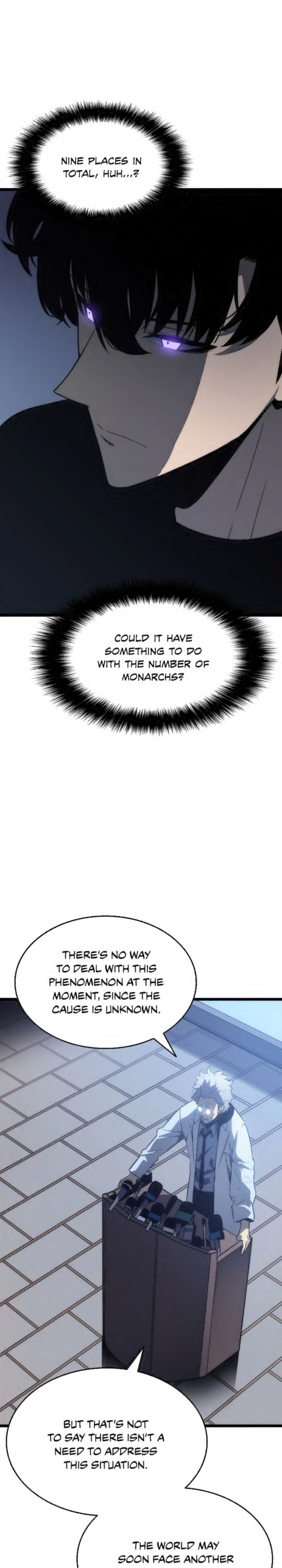
SEOUL,
SOUTH KOREA.

SOUTH KOREA?
WHISPER
WHISPER
KOREA?
THAT'S WHERE...

THERE IS NO NEED TO STARE AT MR. SUNG, EVERYONE.



BECAUSE IF HE COULD CONTROL THE MAGISPHERE, HE'D ALREADY BE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE RANKS OF A HUNTER.


NINE PLACES IN TOTAL, HUH...?
COULD IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE NUMBER OF MONARCHS?
THERE'S NO WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS PHENOMENON AT THE MOMENT, SINCE THE CAUSE IS UNKNOWN.
BUT THAT'S NOT TO SAY THERE ISN'T A NEED TO ADDRESS THIS SITUATION.
THE WORLD MAY SOON FACE ANOTHER

PROFOUND CHANGE.

I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE TO ALL THE HUNTERS GATHERED HERE TODAY.

IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT I BRING YOU THIS NEWS.
ABOUT TWO WEEKS

AGO,

HUNTER CHRISTOPHER REED WAS MURDERED BY A GROUP OF UNIDENTIFIED ASSAILANTS.

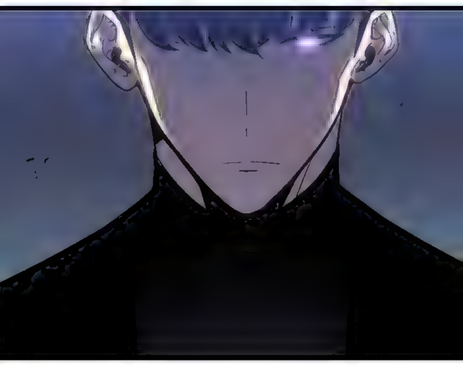
CHRISTOPHER REED? A NATIONAL LEVEL HUNTER WAS MURDERED?!
HE'S KIDDING, RIGHT? THERE'S JUST NO WAY.
MURMUR
MURMUR
AWAKENED BEINGS WHO ARE EQUALLY AS STRONG AS NATIONAL LEVEL HUNTERS ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN KILL THEM!

COULD IT BE THE GUY WHO DUKED IT OUT WITH THOMAS JUST YESTERDAY...?!

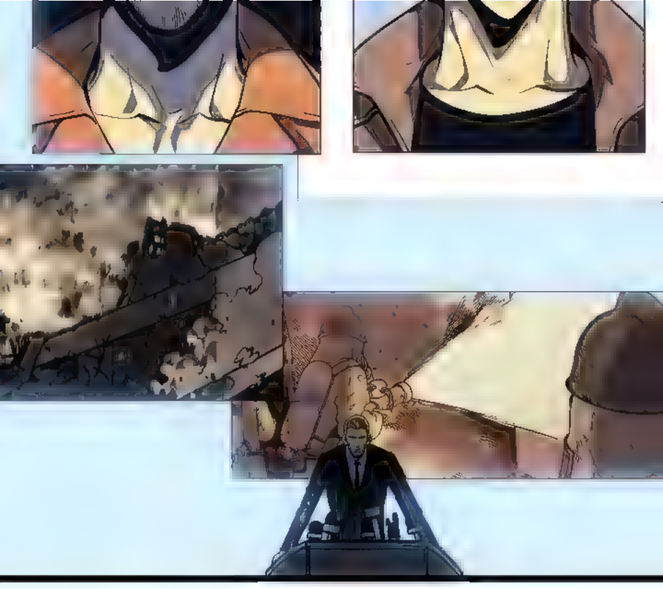
CHRISTOPHER REED'S
OFFICIAL OBITUARY
WILL BE RELEASED
TOMORROW.

PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY AND REFRAIN FROM JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS.

WE HAVE A SUSPECT THAT WE BELIEVE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS INCIDENT.



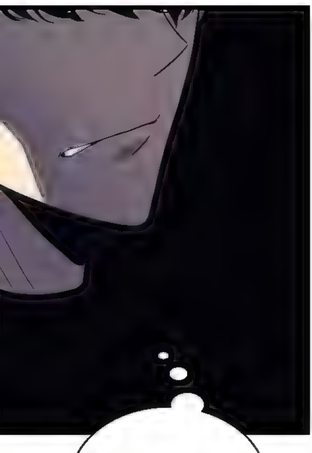
"SUSPECT S."



THEN SUNG JINWOO, THE GUY WHO FOUGHT WITH THOMAS, ISN'T THE PERPETRATOR?
BUT THAT ASIAN MAN'S FACE... LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE SOMEONE SITTING HERE IN THIS ROOM.

WE CAN'T REALLY TELL ASIAN FACES APART ANYWAY.

BUT NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT...



WHY MY FATHER...

DUNGEONS ARE THE RULERS' REALM.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY THE RULERS SENT A BEAST THAT LOOKS LIKE MY FATHER.

COULD IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHAT KAMISH SAID?

"SUSPECT S" WAS DISCOVERED IN A GATE ON AMERICAN SOIL, AND HAS SINCE BEEN DETERMINED TO BE A BEAST THAT CAN SPEAK A HUMAN LANGUAGE.

BECAUSE HE SPOKE KOREAN, WE ASKED S-RANK HUNTER HWANG DONGSOO TO INTERROGATE HIM, BUT...

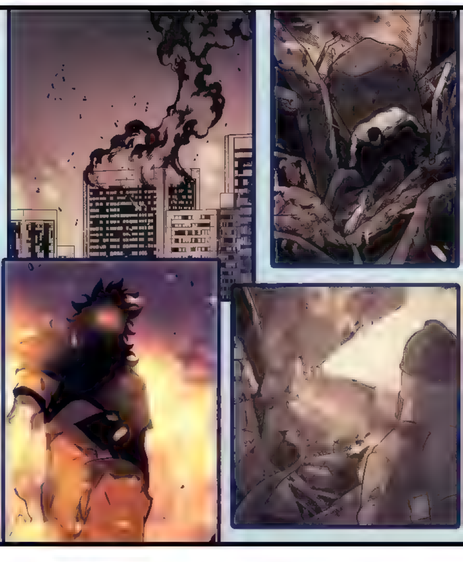
I'LL FORCE YOU TO TELL ME.

YOU'RE A COCKY GUY, AREN'T YOU?

...HE KNOCKED OUT MR. HWANG DURING THE INTERROGATION AND RAN AWAY.

AS FOR THE BUREAU'S HEADQUARTERS, IT BECAME ENGULFED IN FLAMES.

THE SUSPECT WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT HWANG DONGSOO, A KEY MEMBER OF THE SCAVENGER GUILD.
WE THINK THERE'S A HIGH POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER POWERFUL HUMANOID BEASTS THAT ALSO ESCAPED FROM DIFFERENT DUNGEONS...
...ALL WENT AFTER CHRISTOPHER REED AT ONCE.
THIS IS THE CONCLUSION WE AT THE BUREAU HAVE COME TO.



?!
HE'S... SAYING SOMETHING?
DON'T YOU EVER STEP FOOT IN KOREA.
I'M NOT SAYING THIS FOR MY SON'S SAKE, I'M SAYING IT FOR YOURS.
YOU WILL NEVER REST IN PEACE, EVEN IN DEATH.

"YOU WILL NEVER REST IN PEACE... EVEN IN DEATH"?

GREED!

YOUR HUNCH IS CORRECT, MY KING.

THAT MAN... IS DEFINITELY MY FATHER!

WE PLAN TO ASK ALL THE GUILDS AROUND THE WORLD TO HELP US APPREHEND "SUSPECT S."
PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU LOCATE THIS MAN. THAT'S ALL I HAVE FOR YOU TODAY.

IS THERE ANY PROOF THAT "SUSPECT S" ISN'T HUMAN?
THE WAVELENGTH OF HIS MANA WAS IDENTICAL TO A BEAST'S. NEXT QUESTION?
THE SUSPECT CLAIMED TO BE A HUMAN WHO WENT MISSING INSIDE A DUNGEON.
WAS THE HUNTER HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF TO BE... A REAL PERSON?
YES, HE WAS A REAL PERSON. NEXT QUESTION.

THEN WHY HAVEN'T YOU REVEALED THAT HUNTER'S IDENTITY?
AH...
HE HAS A CONNECTION TO ONE OF THE HUNTERS PRESENT HERE TODAY,
SO WE'VE DECIDED NOT TO DISCLOSE THAT INFORMATION.
ARE THERE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?

STILL, WOULDN'T REVEALING HIS IDENTITY HELP WITH THE SEARCH?

CHINA'S 7-STAR HUNTER

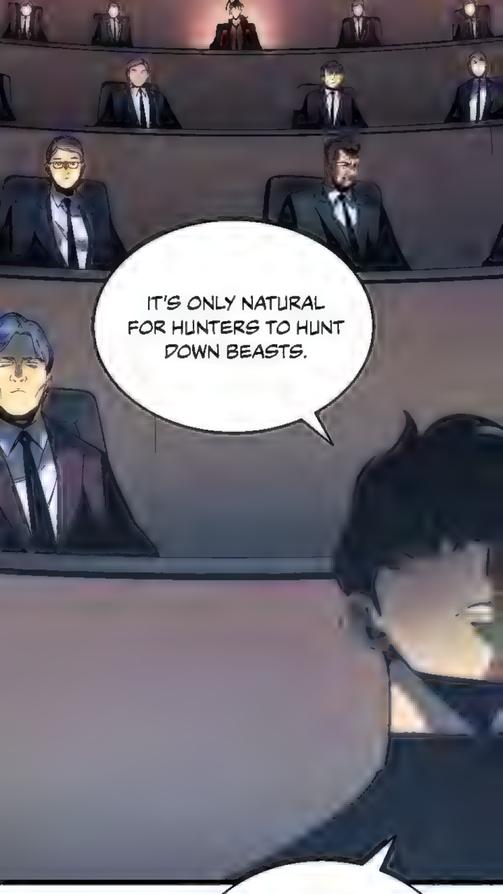
LIU ZHIGANG

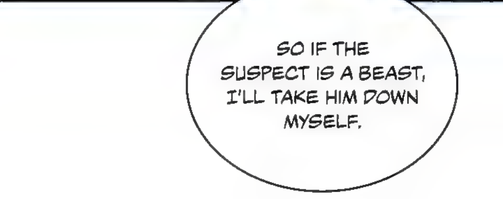
...

WELL, MR. LIU...
I GUESS YOU LEAVE ME WITH NO CHOICE.
DURING THE INTERROGATION, "SUSPECT S" IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS MR. SUNG JINWOO'S FATHER,
SO WE ARE USING THAT AS THE BASIS OF OUR INVESTIGATION.

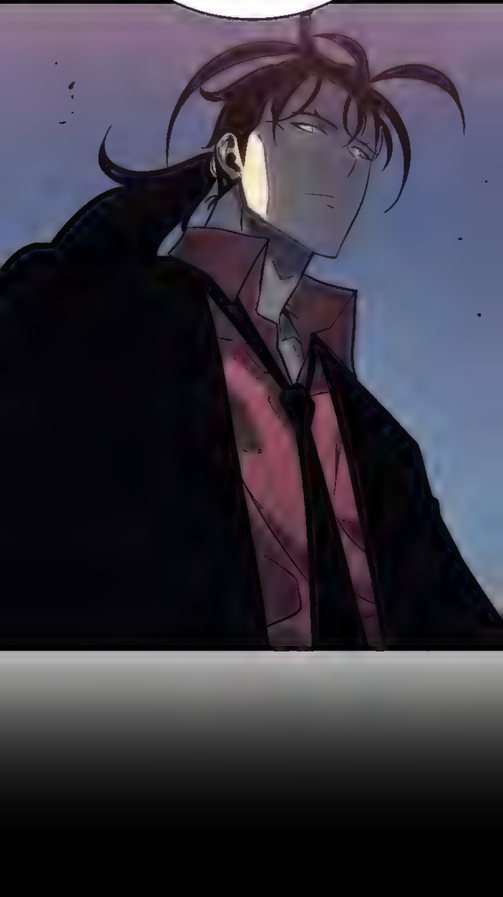
WHISPER
MURMUR
WHISPER

MR. SUNG, WHAT WILL YOU DO IF "SUSPECT S" TURNS OUT TO BE YOUR MISSING FATHER...
...AND HUNTERS TRY TO HUNT HIM DOWN?


IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR HUNTERS TO HUNT DOWN BEASTS.


SO IF THE SUSPECT IS A BEAST, I'LL TAKE HIM DOWN MYSELF.

BUT IF HE REALLY IS MY FATHER AND NOT A BEAST...



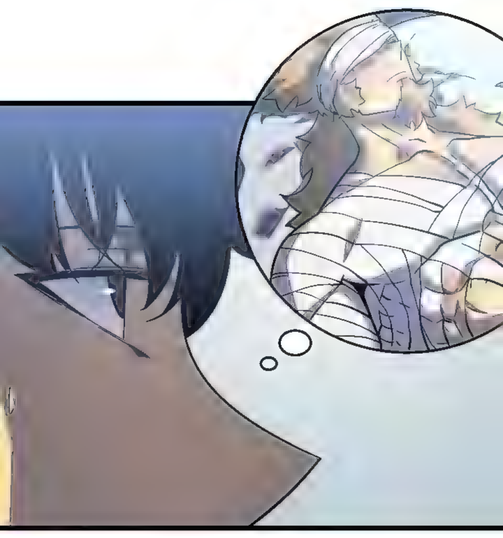
...THEN I'LL SIMPLY
HAVE TO HUNT DOWN

HAVE TO HUNT DOWN THE HUNTERS.

I'M GOING TO PROTECT MY FAMILY, EVEN IF IT MEANS TURNING ALL THE HUNTERS IN THE WORLD AGAINST ME.

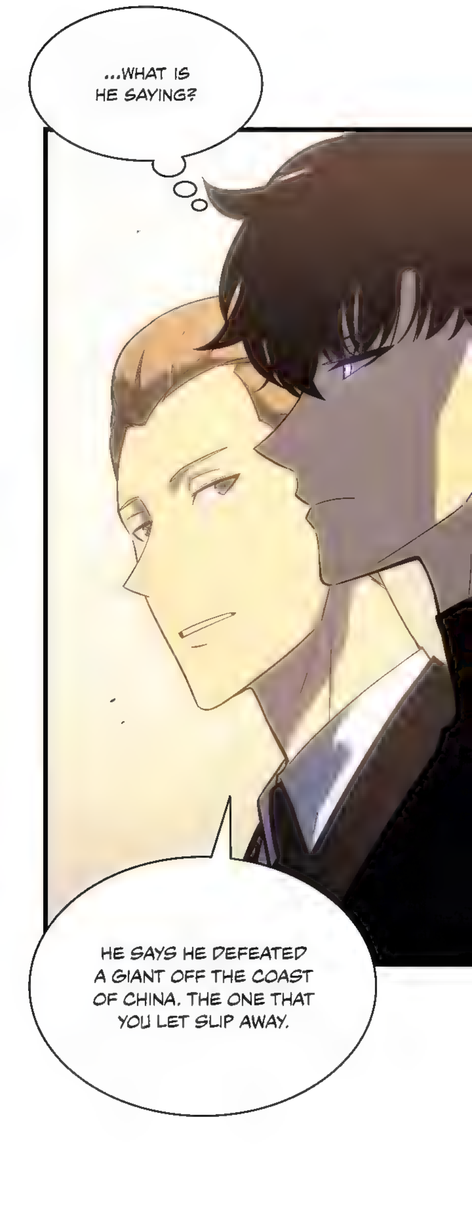
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT IN FRONT OF 500 TOP-RANKING HUNTERS FROM OVER 120 COUNTRIES...

THERE'S PROBABLY ONLY ONE OTHER HUNTER WHO CAN GET AWAY WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS.



THERE'LL BE A BANQUET NOW, MR. SUNG.
THE BUREAU WORKED REALLY HARD TO PUT IT TOGETHER, SO IF YOU AREN'T BUSY, HOW ABOUT DINING WITH THE OTHER...

MURMUR
MURMUR


...WHAT IS HE SAYING?
HE SAYS HE DEFEATED A GIANT OFF THE COAST OF CHINA. THE ONE THAT YOU LET SLIP AWAY.

YOU CAN SPEAK CHINESE, TOO?
WELL, I'M IN CHARGE OF THE ASIA REGION, SO I'M SOMEWHAT FLUENT IN MOST ASIAN LANGUAGES.
KEEP INTERPRETING, THEN.
—
—

ALL RIGHT. MR. LIU WAS SURPRISED AT HOW STRONG THE GIANT WAS.
AND THAT FIGHTING THE BEAST ON WATER MADE IT ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT.

HE'S BEEN WANTING TO MEET YOU EVER SINCE.
HE'S BEEN CURIOUS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HUNTER WHO WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT THE POWERFUL GIANTS WITH EASE.

ALSO, HE SAYS HE'S GLAD YOU PUT THOMAS IN HIS PLACE.

HE'S POSITIVE THOMAS WAS THE ONE AT FAULT...

I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A GRUMPY GUY AT FIRST, BUT...

...HE SEEMS LIKE A PRETTY INTERESTING PERSON.

WHICH IS WHY HE TRULY HOPES "SUSPECT S"... ISN'T YOUR FATHER.

To Be Continued...

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